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PHILIPPINE FOREIGN COMMERCE IN THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1918.

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From detailed customs returns just compiled and made available by the Bureau of Insular Affairs of the War Department, it appears that Philippine foreign trade in the year ending June 30, 1918 reached an unparalleled value and exceeded the figures of the previous year by over sixty per cent in both imports and exports. But in view of the phenomenal increase in prices during the period, values furnish even a less trustworthy index of the trade activity than in previous years of the war period, and the inference from these totals is subject to some discount. Relying, however, on the more trustworthy but less complete returns of quantities, the volume of trade both inward and outward indicates marked activity and a generally prosperous year. In the widely diversified import trade, where a low total value has prevailed throughout the war in spite of advancing prices, in such items as are reported in quantity there was a general improvement over the volume of the previous year, while in exports still larger quantities were generally recorded, under production conditions already prosperous and materially stimulated by the war.

Total imports amounted to \$83,763,290, and of the thirty-two million dollars increase half was in cotton cloths and the miscellaneous iron and steel trade. Imports of cotton textiles were heavy throughout the year and reached by far the largest quantity ever recorded. Over eighty per cent was from the United States, and the interesting feature in the small residue was the large development in Japanese shipments. These were nearly four times as large as in 1917 and about equaled the British trade, which in early years of American occupations controlled the market, but later gave place to American textiles, and during the war period has further declined. The iron and steel trade more than doubled in value, while there was a very general increase in quantities as well, notably in the case of the important sheet and plate trade, which was practically twice that of 1917. Large increases in values of oil-extracting and sugar machinery, even after liberal discount for higher prices, testify to the further development of these important industries.

Local production relieved the need for foreign rice and the quantity imported was below that of recent years, but the price movement continued upward and the value was only nominally smaller than in the previous year. Wheat flour imports, which declined to small proportions in 1917, again became normal, and resulted in an increase of over a million dollars, while shipping conditions and the European need caused the diversion of this normally American trade to Australia. On the other hand the larger fresh beef trade of the year was increasingly diverted from Australia to the nearby China coast, which has become the important source of supply.

Indications of prosperity are to be found in many items of the year's figures, notably in a two and a half million dollar silk trade, which was double that of 1917. Textiles, constituting the leading item, reached a million dollars in value, and were double the quantity of the previous year, while spun silk, entering into local manufactures, was also in materially larger quantities. To the same effect is the marked increase in cotton laces and embroideries, jewelry, and similar articles of luxury, as well as the large number of autos imported.

Exports for the first time passed the hundred million mark and amounted to \$116,614,611, or more than double the prevailing figures of the pre-war period. In the enormous forty-five million dollar increase over the total of 1917 hemp and coconut products were the chief factors. There was a notably larger production of hemp, with an increase in exports from 132,477 long tons in 1917 to 158,211 long tons, the largest quantity since 1911, while under the greatly stimulated war demand soaring prices further contributed to the twenty-four million dollar increase in value for the year. In fact the upward movement in prices became so pronounced in the latter part of the year that the government intervened and fixed prices at approximately those prevailing at the time. But tonnage difficulties continued, exports moved in reduced quantities during the period, and the local

price-fixing order was revoked in June, being followed by a material drop in prices in the closing days of the year, with large accumulations of stocks reported both in Manila and in the provinces.

Production in the coconut industry assumed enormous proportions as shown by much larger exports of copra than in 1917 or 1916, and in addition there was a two hundred per cent increase in exports of coconut oil, local manufacture of which has been rapidly developed to such proportions that more than half of the copra produced is now being converted into oil. The development of this new manufacturing industry began just before the war, but under the stimulus of shipping advantages over the raw material enjoyed during the war period, it has rapidly grown in export importance, until in the returns of 1918 coconut oil ranks second only to hemp among leading exports. Both products are now almost wholly marketed in the United States, the islands supplying about sixty per cent of American imports of oil and about half those of copra.

The condition of the sugar industry was less satisfactory. Exports amounting to 225,428 long tons, were slightly below those of the previous year, while the average price remained virtually the same. In spite of American needs the tonnage situation for this distant source of supply resulted in reduced shipments to the United States, while high freights were reported as operating against successful competition in the oriental market, with large stocks in warehouse at the close of the year. Centrifugal sugar was first made the subject of separate official report beginning January, 1918, and it is of interest to note that of the total exports for the latter half of the year under review amounting to 121,290 long tons, 25,006 long tons was centrifugal. The figures may be taken as roughly indicative of the extent to which the industry has been modernized since the advent of more prosperous conditions under free trade with the United States. This high-grade product was shipped exclusively to the American market.

The cigar trade amounted to 318,564,000, and the striking increase of nearly fifty per cent in the number exported is doubtless to be attributed in large measure to the continuation of well directed efforts of the Philippine government to improve the standard of the Philippine cigar and popularize it in the American market, though there was also some recovery in the reduced trade of other countries. With American purchases, however, seventy per cent of the total number exported in 1918, the foreign feature of the trade becomes increasingly less important. Exports of unmanufactured tobacco established a new high record both in quantity and price. With exports exceeding forty million pounds, and averaging over ten cents a pound, or two cents above the high figure realized in 1917, the year proved highly prosperous for the industry. In addition to the ordinary leaf trade, a stripped leaf trade of some importance has recently grown up with the United States, and is a prominent feature in the much increased American purchases, which amounted to eighteen per cent of the quantity of unmanufactured tobacco exported.

Among minor exports there was a large increase in the quantity of cordage and of knotted hemp, both of which for the first time find a market of some importance in the United States. Philippine embroideries continue to increase in popularity with the American woman, and reached a value of over two million dollars. Maguey was exported in much reduced quantity, and shipments to the United States became of minor importance. It is reported that the Philippine salt-water retted fiber has not been found satisfactory for American binder twine, but that primitive method of preparing the fiber seems at last destined to be superseded, as the year witnessed the installation by the government of fiber-stripping machinery, and under modern methods this valuable Philippine product will be given an opportunity for competitive development with Mexican sisal.

In the distribution of the great increases in the trade of the year by countries, the United States, Japan, China, and Australia shared chiefly in imports, while the United States and the United Kingdom led in exports in consequence of their prominence in hemp and coconut products. The commercial interdependence of the United States and the islands further increased with another year of war and restricted trade movement, practically sixty per cent of all imports being American goods, while two-thirds of all exports found an American market.

FOREIGN COMMERCE OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.
Compiled by the Bureau of Insular Affairs, War Department.

I M P O R T S.	Twelve months ending June -			
	1917		1918	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Automobiles..... No.	1,048	\$750,063	1,646	\$1,278,675
United States..... "	1,048	750,063	1,646	1,278,675
Cement..... Bbls.	160,654	301,067	182,205	436,453
United States..... "	48	153	2,654	7,669
China..... "	78,630	151,371	114,327	280,040
Hongkong..... "	34,277	70,037	12,028	28,420
Japan..... "	3,695	36,378	33,216	86,739
Other countries..... "	44,004	43,128	19,980	33,585
Coal..... Long tons	400,585	1,234,404	395,275	1,874,997
United States..... "			10	231
China..... "	112,150	311,437	101,655	328,103
Japan..... "	287,752	919,708	253,638	1,334,745
Other countries..... "	683	3,259	39,972	211,918
Cotton, and manufactures:				
Cloths..... Sq. yds.	88,551,096	8,487,752	138,405,699	19,171,262
United States..... "	77,120,928	7,267,399	117,202,749	16,011,733
United Kingdom..... "	6,323,167	700,816	8,777,713	1,368,071
Japan..... "	2,538,259	216,671	9,033,172	1,276,167
Other countries..... "	2,568,742	302,867	3,392,065	515,291
Thread.....		557,714		639,648
United States.....		468,780		484,996
Other countries.....		88,954		154,652
Wearing apparel.....		1,680,293		2,350,565
United States.....		522,910		742,246
Japan.....		1,003,644		1,433,628
Other countries.....		153,739		173,691
Yarn..... Lbs.	2,414,678	752,262	2,510,940	1,269,302
United States..... "	15,086	12,049	2,459	2,178
United Kingdom..... "	312,019	127,725	333,450	243,107
Japan..... "	1,524,975	467,092	1,723,492	853,291
Other countries..... "	562,598	145,396	451,339	170,726
All other.....		1,124,206		1,874,141
United States.....		472,157		988,449
United Kingdom.....		190,377		288,400
Other countries.....		461,672		597,292
Iron and steel:				
Machinery.....		1,453,447		3,233,450
United States.....		1,217,560		3,039,769
United Kingdom.....		150,710		50,459
Other countries.....		85,177		143,622
All other.....		2,687,667		6,071,093
United States.....		2,102,027		5,265,800
United Kingdom.....		132,125		76,021
Other countries.....		453,515		729,272

FOREIGN COMMERCE OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS - Continued .

I M P O R T S.	Twelve months ending June -			
	1917		1918	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Illuminating oil.....Galls.	11,880,541	\$1,196,629	9,281,483	\$1,242,692
United States....."	9,792,549	978,371	6,819,367	906,361
Dutch East Indies....."	2,017,170	211,541	2,416,794	331,384
Other countries....."	70,822	6,717	45,322	4,947
Leather, and manufactures:				
Boots and shoes.....Pairs	546,388	706,116	612,222	1,078,204
United States....."	395,586	673,554	485,014	1,038,803
Other countries....."	150,802	32,562	127,208	39,401
All other.....		524,375		813,383
United States.....		466,410		675,182
Other countries.....		57,965		138,201
Meat and dairy products:				
Condensed milk.....Lbs.	10,154,315	770,462	11,999,783	1,377,452
United States....."	5,189,761	388,162	11,284,084	1,300,980
United Kingdom....."	2,528,489	193,778	148,206	14,816
Other countries....."	2,436,065	188,522	567,493	61,656
Freshbeef,.....Lbs.	5,115,505	479,219	8,385,679	804,341
United States....."	48,219	7,398	4,484	1,304
Australasia....."	1,576,009	157,615	1,056,279	112,908
China....."	3,491,277	314,206	7,324,916	690,129
All other.....		937,210		1,235,726
United States.....		366,285		449,157
Australasia.....		182,369		231,682
Other countries.....		388,556		554,887
Paper, and manufactures.....		1,422,255		1,992,198
United States.....		902,924		1,060,259
France.....		145,905		241,770
Japan.....		133,622		399,705
Other countries.....		239,804		290,464
Rice.....Long tons	177,070	6,470,909	156,616	6,167,015
United States....."		10		2
French E. I....."	170,424	6,130,517	149,295	5,665,564
Spain....."	6,429	329,542	7,118	485,507
Other countries....."	217	10,840	203	15,942
Wheat flour.....Bbls.	268,611	1,502,803	364,695	2,667,736
United States....."	118,066	599,530	1,518	14,214
Australasia....."	79,179	498,470	319,175	2,343,723
Japan....."	71,215	403,931	43,572	305,773
Other countries....."	151	872	430	4,026
All other articles.....		18,944,424		28,184,957
United States.....		10,320,834		16,530,221
Other countries.....		8,623,590		11,654,736
Total imports.....		\$51,983,278		\$83,763,290

FOREIGN COMMERCE OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS - Continued.

E X P O R T S.	Twelve months ending June -			
	1917		1918	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Manila Hemp.....Long toons	132,477	\$30,259,550	158,211	\$54,493,970
United States....."	69,868	17,037,191	83,972	32,418,469
United Kingdom....."	39,143	6,776,087	55,160	14,682,401
Japan....."	9,715	3,581,832	11,412	5,353,514
Other countries....."	13,751	2,864,440	7,667	2,039,586
Coconut oil.....Lbs.	56,013,897	6,500,963	158,986,263	18,552,249
United States....."	54,184,214	6,258,717	158,751,966	18,531,746
Other countries....."	1,829,683	242,246	234,297	20,503
Sugar.....Long tons	234,303	12,729,083	225,428	13,304,770
United States....."	98,696	7,131,473	78,713	6,512,948
China....."	33,319	1,678,543	35,306	1,721,309
Hongkong....."	72,413	3,420,548	76,438	3,430,819
Japan....."	13,080	662,172	34,674	1,620,972
Other countries....."	16,800	836,247	297	18,722
Copra.....Long tons	69,382	6,942,093	103,897	9,527,241
United States....."	46,775	4,646,725	88,419	8,172,252
France....."	10,805	1,137,030	4,447	394,513
Spain....."	8,534	874,987	10,504	918,299
Other countries....."	3,268	283,341	517	42,177
Cigars.....Thous.	219,039	3,459,824	318,564	5,708,718
United States....."	148,112	2,714,006	224,174	4,653,111
Australasia....."	4,082	68,254	6,168	107,631
British E. I....."	8,624	76,065	10,414	106,156
China....."	19,086	235,428	29,527	366,620
Other countries....."	39,135	366,071	48,281	475,200
Unmanufac'd tobacco.....Lbs.	30,634,126	2,630,480	41,269,433	4,954,298
United States....."	3,614,166	537,151	7,466,544	1,740,159
France....."	5,615,606	550,753	7,402,927	774,547
Spain....."	14,212,088	904,773	24,986,619	2,219,335
Other countries....."	7,192,276	637,803	1,409,343	220,257
Maguery.....Long tons	14,726	2,044,907	10,992	1,904,131
United States....."	11,177	1,587,227	3,773	673,486
United Kingdom....."	1,271	175,130	4,553	810,044
Other countries....."	2,278	282,550	2,666	420,601
Knotted hemp.....Lbs.	798,698	539,054	1,253,126	1,093,337
United States....."	40,752	25,508	417,011	364,961
France....."	472,749	305,841	172,083	196,804
Italy....."	53,664	26,800	197,393	158,661
Switzerland....."	198,390	162,432	263,560	202,038
Other countries....."	32,143	18,473	203,079	170,873
All other articles.....		5,609,421		7,075,897
United States.....		3,187,385		3,943,101
Other countries.....		2,422,036		3,132,796
Total exports.....		\$71,715,375		\$116,614,611

FOREIGN COMMERCE OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS - Continued.

C O U N T R I E S.	Imports		Exports	
	Twelve months ending June			
	1917	1918	1917	1918
United States.....	\$27,516,556	\$49,799,229	\$43,125,393	\$77,010,233
Hawaii.....	361,294	202,679	129,670	182,613
United Kingdom.....	2,671,334	3,033,143	7,677,213	15,666,764
Australasia.....	1,009,365	3,026,306	789,445	1,111,404
Belgium.....	27,866	34		
British East Indies.....	1,041,244	1,488,129	961,929	1,036,486
China.....	3,343,943	5,332,075	2,199,763	2,435,315
France.....	633,693	720,913	2,187,450	1,412,692
French East Indies.....	6,393,719	5,753,376	130,473	737,196
Hongkong.....	145,748	123,025	4,834,445	5,096,921
Italy.....	91,720	96,672	43,129	168,011
Japan.....	5,889,275	10,660,672	4,975,416	7,863,165
Netherlands.....	141,930	56,392	439,524	
Spain.....	839,232	643,554	2,001,918	3,233,201
Switzerland.....	443,432	350,092	162,432	202,038
Other countries.....	1,432,347	1,953,496	2,057,165	458,572
Total.....	51,933,278	83,763,290	71,715,375	116,614,611
TOTALS.				
July.....	\$4,855,307	\$6,999,357	\$7,106,450	\$6,763,630
August.....	3,813,910	6,527,651	4,879,790	11,813,825
September.....	3,556,380	7,037,893	6,053,482	10,303,279
October.....	4,730,411	6,603,557	4,932,333	12,534,742
November.....	4,472,931	5,361,123	5,150,191	8,136,180
December.....	3,542,078	6,242,639	4,737,305	7,307,832
January.....	4,619,631	6,242,471	5,477,060	11,824,151
February.....	3,724,767	5,773,256	5,453,305	12,122,813
March.....	4,976,070	7,423,371	8,227,541	10,415,833
April.....	3,040,862	5,134,018	4,794,107	7,010,972
May.....	5,348,625	7,839,830	5,271,630	9,880,275
June.....	5,302,256	10,500,024	9,521,126	8,501,079
Total.....	51,933,278	83,763,290	71,715,375	116,614,611
UNITED STATES.				
July.....	\$3,013,234	\$3,525,574	\$3,929,509	\$3,062,924
August.....	1,729,040	3,881,398	3,179,366	8,337,785
September.....	1,670,998	4,597,992	3,980,355	7,848,812
October.....	2,439,116	4,404,612	2,830,770	9,645,428
November.....	2,436,337	2,830,593	2,942,151	5,322,474
December.....	1,531,032	3,633,689	1,812,697	4,566,391
January.....	2,631,515	4,499,574	1,538,266	6,594,681
February.....	1,859,143	3,772,907	3,394,275	7,517,204
March.....	2,691,021	4,719,627	6,363,539	7,051,297
April.....	1,359,257	2,162,582	2,378,211	5,464,583
May.....	3,389,260	4,844,935	3,202,003	5,778,996
June.....	2,766,539	6,875,746	7,569,251	5,819,658
Total.....	27,516,556	49,799,229	43,125,393	77,010,233

NOTE - U. S. Insular possessions are not included under the title "United States."

COLUMBIAN NATURAL CLASP NO. 90N
PAT. 1,290,083 PAT. 1,593,048
THE UNITED STATES ENVELOPE CO. SPRINGFIELD, MASS.
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